THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) To improve the standard of cleanliness at railway stations, steps like introduction of mechanised cleaning, provision of washable aprons, provision of 'Pay & Use' toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc. have been undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas and take remedial measures. Drives are launched from time to time particularly during rush seasons to have greater impact.

Indian Railways have more than 8000 railway stations. All the stations have been provided with minimum essential amenities as per norms and according to the category of stations. Maintenance and further development of amenities is a continuous process and is carried out regularly.

(b) The best maintained stations in different categories with respect to upkeep of passenger amenities and cleanliness are rewarded annually by the zonal railways.

(c) and (d) There is a system of periodic inspections by multi-disciplinary Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) of appropriate level to monitor the upkeep of amenities and cleanliness and take immediate corrective action. Suitable action is taken against the staff found wanting in performance of their duties for maintenance of passenger amenities at railway stations.

Medical colleges in Nagaland

*266. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up medical colleges in Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Central Government has

no scheme to open Medical Colleges in States/UTs including Nagaland. It is for the concerned State Government to set up Medical College in accordance with its needs and priorities and availability of resources. The Central Government is only permitting establishment of new medical colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act and Regulations made thereunder. No proposal has been received by the Central Government for setting up a College in Nagaland. However, the Central Government is allocating number of MBBS/BDS seats to the state of Nagaland from the Central pool.

AIDS cases in Uttar Pradesh

*267. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the largest number of AIDS patients are there in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, gender-wise;

(c) the main reasons for spread of such fatal disease in the country and delay in taking appropriate action for the protection of the public; and

(d) the steps now proposed to be taken for eradication of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) According to the recent Annual Sentinel Surveillance Report, there are an estimated 5.2 million HIV infected persons in the country. A total of 1,24,366 cases of AIDS have been reported in the country since the start of the epidemic. Of this, the number of reported AIDS cases from the State of Uttar Pradesh are 1,751. Out of the total reported cases in the country, 29.5% are women, The State wise and gender-wise number of cases reported during the last three years is annexed. As per Statement (*See* below)